

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

- 1 1. A method for dynamically creating new users having transparent computer
2 access to a destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home
3 network through home network settings resident on the users' computers, and wherein
4 the users can access the destination network without altering the home network
5 settings, comprising:
6 receiving at a gateway device a request from a user for access to a
7 destination network, wherein the user's computer remains configured for accessing
8 the home network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed
9 on the user's computer to access the destination network;
10 determining if the user is entitled access to the destination network
11 based upon a user profile corresponding to the user and stored within a user profile
12 database in communication with the gateway device, and
13 redirecting the user to a login page when the user profile does not
14 include rights to access the destination network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding the user to
2 the destination network when the user profile includes rights to access the destination
3 network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing a login
2 page on a webserver local to the gateway device prior to redirecting the user to the
3 login page.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting user information at the
2 login page which is thereafter utilized by the gateway device to authorize the user
3 access to the destination network.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising updating the user profile database
2 with the user information.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the user from the login
2 page to the destination address.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of directing the user to a
2 portal page after the step of receiving from the user a request for access to the
3 destination network and prior to the step of determining if the user is entitled access to
4 the destination network.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a user request includes receiving a
2 user request for an Internet destination.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein redirecting the browser located on the user's
2 computer includes receiving a Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request for the
3 destination address and responding with an HTTP response corresponding to the login
4 page.

1 10. A system for dynamically creating new users having transparent computer
2 access to a destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home
3 network through home network settings resident on the users' computers, and wherein
4 the users can access the destination network without altering the home network
5 settings, comprising:

6 a gateway device for receiving a request from a user for access to the
7 destination network, wherein the user's computer remains configured for accessing
8 the home network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed
9 on the user's computer to access the destination network;

10 a user profile database comprising stored access information and in
11 communication with the gateway device;

12 an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) server in
13 communication with the gateway device and user profile database, where the AAA
14 server determines if the user is entitled to access the destination network based upon
15 the access information stored within the user profile database, and wherein the AAA
16 server redirects the user to a login page where the access information does not
17 indicate the user's right to access the destination network

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the gateway device locally maintains the
2 login page.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the user profile database is located within the
2 gateway device.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the AAA server is located within the gateway
2 device.

1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the user profile database includes a plurality
2 of user profiles, wherein each respective user profile of the plurality of user profiles
3 contains access information.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the user profile database is located within the
2 AAA server.

1 16. The system of claim 14, wherein each respective user profile contains
2 historical data relating to the duration of destination network access for use in
3 determining the charges due for the destination network access.

1 17. A method for redirecting users having transparent computer access to a
2 destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home network
3 through home network settings resident on the users' computers, and wherein the
4 users can access the destination network without altering the home network settings,
5 comprising:

6 receiving at a gateway device a request from a user for access to a
7 destination address, and

8 redirecting the user to a portal page, wherein the user computer
9 remains configured for accessing the home network, and wherein no additional
10 configuration software need be installed on the user's computer.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein receiving at a gateway device a request from
2 a user for access to a destination address comprises receiving an Internet destination
3 address from the user.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein redirecting the user to a portal page
2 comprises redirecting the user to a portal page created by an administrator associated
3 with the portal page.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein redirecting the user to a portal page
2 comprises redirecting the user to a portal page customized by the user.

1 21. A system for redirecting users having transparent computer access to a
2 destination network, wherein the users otherwise have access to a home network
3 through home network settings resident on the users' computers, and wherein the
4 users can access the destination network without altering the home network settings,
5 comprising:
6 a gateway device for receiving a request from a user for access to the
7 destination network, and
8 an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) server in
9 communication with the gateway device, where the AAA server intercepts the request
10 from the user for access to the destination network and redirects the user to a portal
11 page, and wherein the user's computer remains configured for accessing the home
12 network, and wherein no additional configuration software need be installed on the
13 user's computer.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the AAA server is located entirely within the
2 gateway device.

1 23. The system of claim 21, where the portal page is maintained on a server local
2 to the gateway device.

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